

# Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXX.

KINGMAN, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1912.

NO. 15

## Placer Mining Yields Nearly Thirteen Millions.

The value of the output of the gold placers of Alaska in 1911 is estimated at about 12,700,000; the corresponding value in 1910 was 11,985,000. This increase in 1911 is to be credited to the Fairbanks-Innoko region, for the output from both the Fairbanks and Seward Peninsula districts was less than in 1910.

Placer mining is relatively unimportant industry in the Pacific coast region of Alaska. In 1911 one placer mine was operated on Gold Creek, near Juneau, and several in the Porcupine district, north of Lynn Canal. Beach mining occupies the time of 25 to 50 men during part of each summer at Yakutat, east of Controller Bay, and at several places in southwestern Alaska. Some new beach diggings are reported to have been discovered near Uyak, on Kodiak Island, in 1911.

Two hydraulic plants and several smaller outfits were employed in placer mining in the Nizina district. About 20 claims were worked in the Chisna district. A hydraulic plant was installed on Chisna River and considerable drilling was done to test placer ground in other parts of this field.

Fairbanks continues to lead all the other Yukon camps in placer gold mining, though the output of 1911 was considerably less than that of the previous year. The most important advancement of the year was the installation of a dredge on upper Fairbanks Creek, the first dredge in this district, though plans have been made for others. Mining operations were somewhat hampered in June and July by the lack of men, due to the stampede to Ruby Creek. The water supply was, as usual, inadequate, and this condition was probably of more serious consequence than in the previous year. Goldstream, Engineer, lower Cleary and Fairbanks creeks were the principal producers. It is estimated that about 75 claims were worked in the winter and about 124 claims in the summer of 1911, and that from 900 to 1200 men were employed.

Of the Yukon camps Circle is second in importance as a gold producer. Three hydraulic plants, all on Mastodon Creek, were installed in this district during the summer of 1911. All these suffered for lack of water and operated only a part of the season. In addition to this, the two existing hydraulic plants on Eagle and Mammoth creeks were operated so far as water permitted. The principal producing creeks were Mastodon, Deadwood, Mammoth, Eagle, Independence and Switch. It is estimated that in the Circle district 29 claims were worked during the winter and 37 claims during the summer of 1911. In the Beaver Creek region no important advances were made. The best prospects in this basin are said to be those on Ophir Creek.

The Hot Spring districts had a successful season. The mines in the Sullivan Creek district had the largest production. Some new placer ground was discovered on American Creek, 15 miles west of Sullivan. Mining continued to yield about a normal production in the Koyukuk, Rampart, Salcha, and Bonfield districts.

Two dredges were successfully operated in the Forty Mile region. One on Walkers Fork worked the entire open season; the other, situated on the South Fork, 3 miles below Franklin, began operations about the end of June. The latter had been moved from Walkers Fork to its present location during the winter. The smaller operators were hampered during the summer by lack of water, and the Ruby Creek excitement carried many men away from the district. A large ditch was under construction at Dome Creek. It is estimated that in the Forty Mile district proper about 115 men were working on 63 claims during the winter and 90 men including those engaged in dead work, on 15 or 20 claims in the summer.

Mining was continued in a small way in the region tributary to Eagle, which includes the American, Mission and Seventy Mile basins. It is estimated that winter work was done on 20 claims

by the same number of men, and summer mining on 19 claims by 30 men.—Los Angeles Mining Review.

## Big Ore Body Demonstrated.

News comes from the Kelvin Sultana property across the river from Kelvin, of a new ore strike that bids fair to put the mine in the United Verde class. It is the penetration by crosscut at the depth of 200 feet, of the first of a series of eight parallel copper veins traced on the surface. Should conditions in the succeeding seven veins to be driven for as fast as possible, or even in only part of them, prove to be anything like the facts demonstrated in the one just cut, the value of the mine as one of the greatest of mineral deposits will be well established.

The importance of the present strike is not so much in the demonstration of copper contents as in the fact that the ore carries over 4% in gold. There is no gold on the surface though four eminent geologists have predicted its existence at depth. In respect of copper the surface values shown were only about one per cent but at 200 feet the ore carries four per cent copper. The increase in values is accompanied also by an increase in the width of the vein, from six feet on the surface to twenty-four feet at depth.

The particular vein is by no means the company's special pride, except that it is the first proof of the correctness of the theories of Superintendent Neil McMillan who has charge of the work, his engineering advisers and George P. Baldwin of Chicago, the promoter and heaviest stockholder in the Kelvin Sultana property. The greater hope of the company is in the development of the seven or more veins it is hoped will be crosscut within the next three months. Neither is the copper value shown in this vein of particular moment except as a sign board for much richer copper is known to exist in many places on the property. And all this requires a little recital of the history of the development.

The property was formerly known as the Bryan group and was considerably developed and very rich ore found many years ago. It changed ownership various times and in the course of its management and mismanagement the property got into such shape in point of development plans that the present ownership decided to begin entirely new workings. It had already satisfied itself of the richness of the mineral deposit and it was then desirable to know more about the extent of it and to do the new work in conformity with a general plan for the eventual operation of the mine on a large scale.

Mr. McMillan, an experienced operator, was placed in charge and he spent months in surveys and tests to satisfy himself as to the location, trend, and magnitude of the veins, having also in mind reduction plants and other needfuls when the time arrived. He traced the eight veins spoken of along the surface, where they showed in varying size. Then he was provided with a theodolite, an electric device for locating minerals. Without great confidence in it he utilized it in surveying his mineral ground and guided somewhat by its findings as well as by his needs for later mine operation, he began the sinking of a new double compartment working shaft at one side of the mineralized zone as it was shown both by croppings and by the mechanical device and at a considerable distance from the old workings. Though still dubious about the machine he found its prediction made good as the sinking of the shaft continued. But the story of the electrical device is an old one and not the feature now, other than to say that Mr. McMillan has gained much confidence in it and sees very easily where its scientific principles apply.

The story now is of the new ore strike. On the 200 foot level of this new working shaft, called the Diamond Joe, a crosscut was started toward the supposed zone of mineralization. The first of the veins has now

been pierced showing 24 feet of good four per cent copper carrying 4% gold, where there was no sign of gold on the surface. This is mine enough in itself for good profits if the shoots along the vein are long enough and it is altogether likely they will be. But there remains yet to be explored the other seven veins indicated on the surface. They may be small or large at the depth now secured, some of them may merge together making fewer and wider veins or there may be big deposits that are blindly covered on the surface. The only sure thing is that the crosscut in which so fine a showing has already been made, is just entering what appears to be a very wide mineralized zone.

If never another vein is found or crossed the proper development of this one will most likely make a mine and it is known that in the older workings there is a world of ore some of it running into wonderful percentages. Many sample lots of fifteen and twenty per cent ore have been shipped and the richest copper ore ever worked at Humboldt smelter came from that property. Unfortunately many of the old workings were left in such a shape that it would cost almost as much to utilize them as to begin over again and the latter course was decided upon as most economical in the long run, especially as it would demonstrate, if the plans were well conceived, the greater value of the mine.

Merely as identical to this story of good fortune, mention is made of another strike on one of the Eastern claims, nearer the river, where there has been found carrying twelve per cent copper and 16% in free gold. But while these values are more alluring, the greater joy is felt over the Diamond Joe strike which seems a verification as far as could be of the prediction of the operators and a warrant of unbounded hope for the making of a wonderful mine. The location of it is one of its finest assets, on the bank of the Gila river which affords a constant water supply, and just across that stream from the town of Kelvin, on what will doubtless be in the near future, a transcontinental railroad line.—Arizona Republican.

## Potash Plant Started.

The Pacific ocean has become a producer of potash. While the German government, which has controlled the potash supply of the world, has been worrying the United States by placing an export duty on it which doubled its price in this country, a process has been quietly perfected in southern California for extracting the valuable chemical from the kelp that lines the coast. Saturday a 50,000 plant for this purpose was started in operation not far from San Diego.

The promoters of the new enterprise have jealously been guarding their discovery, and even after a patent was issued recently for their process, which means the saving of millions of dollars in agricultural enterprises and in the manufacture of explosives, the actual magnitude of the discovery and the fact that the new plant was ready for operation was kept a secret.

Included in the new potash manufacturing process is a novel submarine mower, with which the kelp is cut. The patent on the machine was recently issued.

This machine is composed of a brace of vertically mounted whirligigs, mounted on the gasoline sloop. Originally, the boat's owners fitted the moyer of the sea with a regulation sickle and pitman twenty feet long and attempted to cut Old Neptune's alfalfa crop in swaths. The oscillating motion of the pitman was not sufficient to cut the ocean mustard, as the nautical hay extended about a hundred feet into the deep and land mowers always work best at about two inches from the ground. It was then that the whirligig knives were tried, fitted from a transverse main shaft amidship upon jack shafts reaching vertically below the bottom of the boat.

The "whirligig" worked like a charm cutting the ocean's grass so fast that the rate of about 100,000 pounds of the potash factories at

keep up with the supply. Unlike land crops, no shocking is required. The cutting drifts ashore and dries on the beach when it is easily raked up and hauled off in the usual way.

While it has been known, in a way, for some time that some kind of potash plant was being constructed between Encinitas and Del Mar, north of San Diego, it did not come to light until last Saturday that the plant had actually begun operations and that it is promising to revolutionize the potash industry of the world.

The new process was discovered by H. S. Firman, a chemist, who had been for many years employed in agricultural chemistry in France and Germany and later did similar work for the U. S. government. Mr. Firman began his study of extracting potash from the California kelp eight years ago, and just before his death two years ago, which was after he had passed the age of 80 years he had perfected his process which was later developed by the Coronado Chemical company.

Fearing interference from some of the moneyed interests of this country that are affiliated in a way with the German potash mines, the promoters of the Coronado Chemical Co. have refused to make any explanation of their process, but when confronted with some of the facts Saturday, a member of the company acknowledged they were correct according to a story published in the Los Angeles Examiner.

The annual import of potash into the United States from Germany was for many years valued at 12,000,000, but recently the German government increased the export duty to such an extent that the potash brought here from that country now costs 24,000,000 a year.

The action of the German government in increasing the export duty on potash in such a way as to make the United States the chief victim of the change, has awakened the interest of the American officials, and President Taft in his recent message to congress called attention to the effect it would have on some industries here.

After this message was delivered, the announcement came from Washington that the department of agriculture had discovered that the kelp of the California coast contained 40 per cent of potash.

It has been estimated by the government that there are 90,000,000 tons of kelp grown each year along the coast of California. It was learned Saturday that the potash plant will operate on 500,000 tons of kelp in a year, or only a 18th part of that grown in a year.—Examiner.

## Amalgamated's Place in Copper Industry.

In securing practical control of the Globe camp the Amalgamated Copper company has made up a large part of what it lost through the development of the porphyry copper properties of the West. The Inspiration and Live Oak properties can be made to produce at least 75,000,000 pounds of copper a year. It was the intention of the Inspiration Copper company alone to build a mill that would produce 50,000,000 pounds a year. So far exploration work in the Live Oak and Inspiration territory assures a life of 25 years on a production of 75,000,000 pounds a year. The exploration work on both properties will be continued and much larger ore tonnages are expected to be located. The ore, which averages more than 2 per cent copper, is considerably higher in grade than the average of the Utah Copper company, and Nevada Consolidated Copper company.

The combined output of the Inspiration and Live Oak companies will be almost as large as the output of the Anaconda mine. That part of the Butte camp controlled by the Amalgamated can easily produce 350,000,000 pounds of copper a year. Add to this the 75,000,000 prospective pounds from the Globe camp gives a total of 425,000,000 pounds annually.

Nevada Consolidated and the Utah Copper company are now producing at the rate of about 100,000,000 pounds of copper. It is not to be expected

ed that the Globe camp will eventually be merged with Anaconda. According to an authority, the combined company, which may eventually absorb the Miami property, will be a separate institution, dominated of course by interests identified with Amalgamated.

The supremacy of the Amalgamated interests in the copper industry of the world cannot be disputed, says the Wall Street Journal. They will handle more copper than any individual, or single group of interests. Outside of Amalgamated itself, the group identified with that company controls the Greene-Canaan, with an annual production of 50,000,000 pounds; Utah Consolidated, with a production of 10,000,000 pounds; the Superior & Pittsburgh, with 25,000,000 pounds a year; North Butte, with a production of 30,000,000 pounds a year; Giroux, with a prospective output of 10,000,000 pounds, and several other properties. Besides the United Metals Selling company, now owned by Amalgamated, will probably handle the copper of Mason Valley owned by W. B. Thompson and which will soon be a producer.

There are numerous mines not mentioned above, the output of which is handled by the selling agency of Amalgamated.

A merger of the Globe group under Amalgamated domination will result in great benefits to the International Smelting and Refining company. It means 75,000,000 additional pounds, perhaps more, copper to be refined at the Raritan works. In view of the large amount of money already spent by International Smelters for new construction, and the amounts that will have to be spent in enlarging capacity, an issue of additional capital stock would not be surprising. The company was organized with an authorized capital stock of \$50,000,000 now \$10,000,000 has been issued. Without increasing the capital stock, a copper smelter in the Tooele district has been built at a cost of 3,000,000. A lead smelter and copper refinery to cost close to 1,000,000 will be completed early next year, and the capacity of the existing copper refining plant has been greatly enlarged. Full benefits from the copper smelter and lead refinery will be obtained next year. At the start the International Smelting and Refining company began the payment of quarterly dividends of 1-1/2 per cent. Later the rate was increased to 2 per cent. The expectations are that the stock will go on a 10 per cent basis some time next year.—Denver Mining Record.

## Vanished Arizona.

Mrs. Martha Summerhays, wife of a lieutenant in the U. S. army, who entered Arizona by way of the Gulf of California and the Colorado river, in 1874, has written a very interesting account of her trip and army life in the then trackless desert waste of the southwest. Mrs. Summerhays made the trip from Fort Mohave by way of Union Pass, Beale Springs, Freeze Wash, The Willows, old camp Waiapai, to Fort Whipple. From that place the troop was detailed for duty at Fort Apache. She also lived at old McDowell and other places in the territory, as well as the army posts in Texas and Nebraska. The book is embellished with twenty-five photographs of scenes in Arizona and elsewhere in the southwest. A photograph of Capt. Jack Mellen and a letter from him thanking Mrs. Summerhays for a copy of her book appears in the addition. The book is a personal narrative of the writer and is, wonderfully interesting. It is published by the Salem Press Co., of Salem, Mass., and can be ordered through local bookseller for 1.50 the copy.

Do you know that fully nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism are simply rheumatism of the muscles due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, and require no internal treatment whatever? Apply Chamberlain's Liniment freely and see how quickly it gives relief. For sale by all dealers.

